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Citizens' Committee on Legislative Compensation Recommendation

In This Issue:

Legislative
Council Meets

JFAC Tour
2012

Reports from
the Audit and
OPE Divisions

Staff Greetings
and Farewells

Staff News

Capitol Gift
Shop

Legislative
Research
Library

On June 25, 2012, the Citizens' Committee on Legislative Compensation met to establish the rate of compensation for legislators serving in the 62nd Idaho Legislature. The results of the Committee deliberations were to make language changes for purposes of clarity and to increase the base salary by 2 percent. The additional salary for the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as well as expense allowances and additional benefits, will remain the same as the past two years.

Legislators will receive a base salary of \$16,438 per year, with the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House receiving an additional salary of \$4,000 per year. During the regular session, each member whose primary residence is outside of Ada County and who maintains a second residence in Ada County will receive an unvouchered expense allowance of \$122 per day, while members who do not maintain a second residence within 50 miles of the Statehouse will receive an unvouchered expense allowance of \$49 per day. Each member will also receive an annual lump sum unvouchered constituent service allowance of \$1,875.

The Committee's recommendations will become the salaries and expenses of the 62nd Idaho Legislature unless rejected or reduced by concurrent resolution prior to the 25th legislative day of the 2013 session. The Supreme Court appointed members of the Committee include Chairperson Debora K. Kristensen of Boise, William F. "Bud" Yost of Nampa and Reed Larsen of Pocatello. Those currently serving through Governor appointment are Bill Daniels of Boise, Don Burtenshaw of Terreton and Eva Gay Yost of Meridian.

Staff Contact: Brooke Murdoch

Legislative Council Holds Interim Meeting

The Legislative Council met in Boise on June 8 for their annual spring meeting and received a report from LSO Director Jeff Youtz on how the different divisions of the Legislative Services Office performed during the last legislative session. The Council also reviewed technology issues and recommendations for the upcoming year; approved language for the voter's guide and ballot statements for the proposed constitutional amendments; received a General Fund budget update; received an update on the Office of Performance Evaluation projects; received a report from the Capitol Services Committee which included a recommendation for the dining room vendor contract; and discussed appropriate public uses and conduct in hearing rooms and gallery areas. Interim study committee members were also appointed by the Council and they are listed below. The full draft minutes of the meeting can be found at:

<http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2012/interim/legcouncil0608min.pdf>.

Interim Committee Appointments

Energy, Environment and Technology Interim Committee – HCR 4

Sen. Curt McKenzie, Co-chair
Sen. Patti Anne Lodge
Sen. Russell Fulcher
Sen. Steve Bair
Sen. John Tippets
Sen. Elliot Werk
Sen. Dan Schmidt

Rep. George Eskridge, Co-chair
Rep. Maxine Bell
Rep. Bert Stevenson
Rep. Eric Anderson
Rep. Jeff Thompson
Rep. Reed DeMordaunt
Rep. Brian Cronin (Ad Hoc)

Staff: Mike Nugent, Toni Hobbs

Natural Resources Interim Committee – HCR 3

Sen. Monty Pearce, Co-chair
Sen. Steve Bair
Sen. Jeff Siddoway
Sen. Lee Heider
Sen. Michelle Stennett
Sen. Dean Cameron (Ad Hoc)
Sen. Bert Brackett (Ad Hoc)
Sen. Shawn Keough (Ad Hoc)
Sen. James “Jim” Hammond (Ad Hoc)
Sen. Elliot Werk (Ad Hoc)

Rep. Dell Raybould, Co-chair
Rep. Bert Stevenson
Rep. Scott Bedke
Rep. Mike Moyle
Rep. Donna Pence
Rep. Ken Andrus (Ad Hoc)
Rep. Frank Henderson (Ad Hoc)
Rep. Paul Shepherd (Ad Hoc)
Rep. Grant Burgoyne (Ad Hoc)

Staff: Katharine Gerrity, Ray Houston, Jackie Gunn

Health Care Task Force

Sen. Dean Cameron, Co-chair
Sen. John Goedde
Sen. Patti Anne Lodge
Sen. Tim Corder
Sen. Joyce Broadsword
Sen. Steve Vick
Sen. Dan Schmidt

Rep. Gary Collins, Co-chair
Rep. Sharon Block
Rep. Carlos Bilbao
Rep. Fred Wood
Rep. Janice McGeachin
Rep. John Rusche
Rep. Elaine Smith

Staff: Ryan Bush, Matt Ellsworth, Charmi Arregui

JFAC Tour, June 13-16

The Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee held their summer interim tour in North Central Idaho, visiting the Lewiston Veteran's Home, a correctional facility, and the Clearwater Valley Hospital as part of the WWAMI rural medicine residency program. The group also toured Hell's Gate State Park and the Port of Lewiston. The University of Idaho hosted the Committee for budget presentations and also provided a tour of the campus.



En route from Boise, Keith Petersen, State Historian with the Historical Society, provided a narrative, highlighting territorial points of interest. The tour of the Lewiston Veteran's Home included an update from Administrator Brasuell on the Division's fund balances. A tour of the Idaho Correctional Institution at Orofino included a review of the bed capacity and requested facility upgrades to increase occupancy. The Juvenile Corrections Center-Lewiston tour identified the need for facility repairs and expansion, and included a presentation on substance abuse treatment programs and identifying a change in the demographics to reflect more mental health diagnoses. Clearwater Valley Hospital provided the Committee with a tour of its award-winning facilities and presented their summer rural care program (RUOP) that partners with WWAMI. JFAC members

had the opportunity to meet with a student who had just completed the summer program, and to review clinical training and community outreach efforts.

The tour of the Port of Lewiston included a history of the port, an explanation of port operations, and the current role the port plays in economic development for the region. A number of Parks & Recreation staff joined the tour of the Hell's Gate State Park.

The University of Idaho hosted the Committee for a day, and provided an extensive tour of the campus. Budget & Policy Analysis staff provided a General Fund Update and gave presentations on the Catastrophic Health Care Program and the most recent Medicaid forecast, college and university tuition and fee hikes, and a status report on growth of adult inmate populations.

The JFAC Committee had not toured this area in several years and found the tour to be very worthwhile.

Staff Contact: Cathy Holland-Smith

Legislative Audit Division

Since last reported in the August/September 2011 issue of the Legislative Perspective, the Legislative Audit Division has issued 12 management reports for the following agencies: State Board of Education, Office of the Secretary of State, Department of Correction, Idaho Office of Drug Policy, Office of Species Conservation, Board of Medicine, Department of Finance, Office of the State Treasurer, Division of Building Safety, and the State Tax Commission.

The Office of the Secretary of State had two findings and recommendations:

- Travel costs are not consistently documented as required by Idaho Code and state travel policies.
- Internal control weaknesses exist in federal grant accounting and program compliance.

The Idaho Office of Drug Policy had one finding and recommendation:

- Travel costs are not documented as required, claimed in error, or not allowed by policy.

The Office of the State Treasurer had three findings and recommendations:

- Gasoline purchases of nearly \$8,000 are not allowable under state travel policy.
- Staff time and State General Funds are used to support programs not specifically authorized by statute.
- Travel costs for the annual bond rating trips are not paid through the state accounting system or properly documented, and some amounts exceeded allowed limits.

The Division of Building Safety had three findings and recommendations:

- Fines are adjusted or waived without proper documentation or authorization by the respective boards as required by Idaho Code.
- Employee evaluations are not completed annually as required.
- The suspense account has not been reconciled for at least three years.

All reports released by the LSO Audit Division, as well as all 90-day follow-up reports, are available in their entirety at:

<http://legislature.idaho.gov/audit>.

The Audit Division also issued six opinion audits for the Eastern Idaho Public Health District (VII), Southwest District Health (III), Panhandle District Health Department (I); Idaho Public Television; the DEQ Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and the DEQ Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

Idaho PTV had one finding and recommendation:

- An internal control weakness exists in the process for preparing financial statements.

The fiscal year 2011 statewide reports were also released. The Internal Control Report included six findings, and the Single Audit Report included 25 findings.

Staff Contact: April Renfro

Office of Performance Evaluations

In March 2012 the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee assigned five evaluations to the Office of Performance Evaluations to be released before or during the next legislative session. OPE will also be following up on several past evaluations, including delays in the Medicaid claims processing system and efficiencies in the parole process.

Guide to Tax Policies Affecting Businesses (anticipated release November 2012)

The Senate Local Government and Taxation Committee requested that OPE develop a tool that can be used to navigate the complex issues and comparisons involved in evaluating tax legislation. OPE will analyze the existing national state tax rankings, look at Idaho's tax structure and its similarities or differences with other states' tax structures, and develop a concise tool to identify critical questions that stakeholders and policymakers can use when evaluating tax legislation for businesses.



State Employee Compensation and Turnover (anticipated release December 2012)

Four JFAC members requested a thorough review of Idaho's compensation process and options for alternative compensation models. They have heard that some agencies are losing too many employees who take with them valuable skills. OPE will evaluate Idaho's employee compensation policy, look at potential barriers that affect implementation of the policy, and analyze employee turnover in state government.

Best Practices for Contract Management (anticipated release December 2012)

Legislators are concerned that Idaho does not have sufficient mechanisms in place to ensure that contracts for goods and services are properly developed and managed and deliverables are adequately monitored. Currently, more than 100 contracts are in place statewide with individual values of \$1 million or more, and several agencies plan to award a number of large contracts within the next year. OPE will look at the roles and responsibilities among vendors, the contracting agency, and the Division of Purchasing to determine whether Idaho needs to improve its contracting process.

Recruitment and Retention of K-12 Teachers (anticipated release January 2013)

The Senate Education Committee requested a study to determine what factors come together to bring and keep quality teachers in Idaho classrooms. OPE will answer several policymaker questions that generally focus on teacher recruitment, attrition, and retention; anticipated needs for future educators; teacher retirement trends; skills of new teachers; and classroom size.

Comparison of Policies for Public Charter and Traditional Schools (anticipated release February 2013)

Legislators requested a comparison of charter and traditional school operations in light of policymakers' continual commitment to improve the K-12 public education system. OPE will do a comparative analysis of the state laws and policies for public charter schools and traditional schools, and evaluate whether the policy differences add value.

Staff Contact: Rakesh Mohan

Legislative Services Staff Update -- New Hires and Promotions

Legislative Audits

April Renfro, New Audit Division Manager

April has a bachelor's degree in accounting, an MBA, and is also a CPA. April started in the LSO audit division in 1994, left between 1997 and 2001 to work in her family business, then came back in 2001. She was one of the four Managing Auditors before being selected to replace Don Berg.

Amy Brown, CPA Staff Auditor III

Amy is a certified public accountant who graduated from Boise State University with a bachelor of business administration degree in accountancy. She previously worked for the office from 1999-2005 and we are pleased to have her back! She had her own accounting business from 2005 through 2012, and also completed federal program reviews as a contractor.

Dena Darpli, CPA, CGFM Staff Auditor III

Dena is a certified public accountant and certified government financial manager who graduated from the University of Phoenix with a bachelor's degree in accounting. She previously worked for a public accounting firm in Tucson, Arizona, specializing in governmental auditing. She also has experience as an Accountant for a school district.

Colin Gallaher, Staff Auditor I

Colin graduated in 2011 from Boise State University with a bachelor of business administration degree in accountancy. He is a second generation employee of the Legislative Services Office and a great addition to the staff. He participated in Beta Alpha Psi, a national honor society for accounting and finance majors, while in college, and volunteered for community projects.

Justin Powell, Staff Auditor I

Justin also graduated from Boise State University with a bachelor of business administration degree in accountancy and a bachelor of arts degree in English teaching. We are happy to say he is a second generation employee of the Legislative Audits Division and member of Beta Alpha Psi as well. Justin previously worked as an Accountant and an Information Technology Manager.

Brandon Rigby, Staff Auditor I

Brandon received a bachelor of business administration degree in accountancy in 2009 from Boise State University. After graduating he worked as a Tax Enforcement Specialist for the Tax Commission. Brandon has taught as adjunct faculty at Brown Mackie College and speaks both German and Italian.

Kirsten Pruett, Staff Auditor I

Kirsten will be joining the office in July. She has a bachelor's degree in accounting and graduated this summer with a master's degree from Idaho State University.

Andrew Campbell, Staff Auditor I

Andrew will also be joining the office in July. He graduated in June with an accounting degree from Oregon State University.

Budget and Policy Analysis

Jared Tatro, Budget Analyst

Jared joined the Budget and Policy staff in June 2012 after five years with OPE. Jared received a master's degree in public administration from Boise State University. He is an alumnus of the Pi Alpha Alpha honor society and has an undergraduate degree in political science, also from Boise State University. Prior to joining the office he worked in the private sector as a restaurant manager.

Legislative Services Staff Update (continued)

Administration

Terri Kondeff, *HR/Fiscal Officer*

Terri has a bachelor of business administration degree from BSU, and came to us from the Supreme Court where she was a Senior Financial Specialist. At the Supreme Court, she handled the same type of fiscal and HR responsibilities for the Administrative Office of the Courts. Previous to that, Terri was General Manager of Aqua Vitae, a multi-million dollar body care company in Northern California.

Michelle O'Brien, *Special Projects Coordinator*

Michelle's job responsibilities have been reorganized into a "Special Projects Coordinator" position. She will now be responsible for the Capitol Tour Program, the Capitol Gift Shop, and the Legislative Information Center. Michelle will also staff the Capitol Services Committee and handle other Capitol Building facility issues for the Legislature. She will also assist the Director with Legislative Council meetings and the New Legislator Orientation Program, and continue to assist the Fiscal/Human Resources Officer with daily financial transactions.

Sara Bingham, *Administrative Assistant*

Sara will provide administrative support to the Central Administration Division. Previously, she worked as a proofreader for Research & Legislation, from 1999-2009. Sara attended the University of Colorado, Boulder, where she majored in English Literature; she then earned certification as a paralegal from the Denver Paralegal Institute.

Legislative Services Staff Retirees

Sheila Ison, a member of the staff since 1993, retired May 31. Her administrative duties for the Legislative Services Office will be undertaken by Michelle O'Brien, writing and publication responsibilities will fall to Toni Hobbs and Jackie Gunn, and Brenda Barker will now be the content editor for the Legislature's website. Sheila looks forward in retirement to spending more time with family, traveling and... no alarm clocks!



Don Berg retired on March 30, 2012, after serving on the Legislative Audits staff for 32 years. He became the manager of the Legislative Audits Division in 2007 and conducted audits of nearly every state agency, including serving as the managing auditor assigned to the Department of Health and Welfare for 19 years. He has an accounting degree from Boise State University and is a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM). Don served as fiscal officer for the 1988, 1999 and 2010 Council of State Government-*WEST* legislative conferences that were hosted by the Idaho Legislature. He and his wife Connie have two children and five grandchildren. They plan to spend more time traveling to their cabin in Cascade, visiting family, and relaxing in Cancun, a favorite vacation destination.



Rande Trueax will be retiring at the end of August 2012 after 29 years of service with the State of Idaho. Rande spent 19 of those years as the Sr. Administrative Assistant for the LSO Audit Division. Rande looks forward to joining her husband, Bill, in retirement; traveling; entering their restored 1940 Ford Coupe in competitions; and maybe once in a while have time to read a book.



Staff News



Legislative Research Analyst **Ryan Bush** will be running the New York City Marathon in November. Running is a huge part of Ryan's life, and he has wanted to run NYC for years.

Ryan will be running to raise money for The Pink Agenda, a group committed to funding breast cancer care and research and education of the disease among young professionals. Ryan's mother, Vicki Bush, died of breast cancer when he was 4 years old at the much-too-young age of 38. Training for a marathon is a grueling process, but Ryan is excited to honor his mother through one of his greatest passions.

Shop Idaho!

The Idaho State Capitol Gift Shop currently has 120 vendors from our great state. We carry a large selection of Idaho-themed items



including handmade wood and stone craft items, t-shirts, hats, books, board games, jewelry made with gems from Idaho, and Spuddy Buddy plush toys.

Come visit us in person on the Garden Level of the Capitol Building or online at:

<http://www.accessidaho.org/ai/payport/online/lso/index.html>

The shop accepts Visa and MasterCard. Shipping costs are included in the online sales price, making check-out easy. Happy Shopping!

Idaho State Capitol Gift Shop
Garden Level Rotunda
700 W. Jefferson St.
Boise, ID 83720
208-332-1013
capitolgiftshop@lso.idaho.gov

Legislative Research Library

Many of you will have noticed a new face in the Legislative Library during the 2012 session! **Cyd Gaudet**, who was brought on a year ago to help with redistricting office work, has replaced Mark Robertson as Research Assistant in the Legislative Library. Always cheerful and helpful, she is a joy to have in the library!

With redistricting behind us, Kristin and Cyd are turning to the library tasks that had to be set on the back burner, such as indexing and binding committee minutes and cataloging new library materials. A list of the new library materials will be published in the next issue of Legislative Perspective.



Kristin Ford is honored to have been chosen by the Legislative Research Librarians staff section of NCSL to receive the **Legislative Staff Achievement Award** in 2012. She was nominated for her work for the Idaho Legislature and for her contributions to the LRL staff section over the years, including making a video to encourage young adults to go into public service, available online at:

<http://www.legislativecareers.org/>

Legislative Perspective is a publication of the Legislative Services Office. It is available online at:

<http://legislature.idaho.gov>

For suggestions or comments, please contact:

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